

# Why Composting?

- Landfills are filling up
- Garbage incineration is becoming increasingly unpopular
- Other waste disposal options are hard to find
- Composting provides a way to:
  - Reduce the amount of organic wastes
  - Convert wastes into a valuable soil amendment



# Why Composting in Schools?



- Composting provides a way of instilling in children a sense of environmental stewardship
- Students can do more than just sending cans or newspaper off for recycling, they can see the entire cycle
- Composting provides a rich topic for scientific investigation and discovery, students witness the interaction between biological, chemical and physical processes

# Program at Schools

- Individual lesson plans for the second and seventh grades
- Outdoor composting by Parks and Recreation
- Recycling of vegetable and fruit scraps at school cafeterias (Compost Club)
- Fairchild Challenge



# Seventh Grade Program

- What is compost?
- What and how to compost
- Trip to outdoor compost bins
- Use data collected by members of the compost club
- Decomposition rate and how to speed up the process
- Become a compost doctor
- Take home message



# Second Grade Program

- What is vermicomposting?
- How to build a habitat for red worms?
- What are red worms?
- What worms need and why?
- Keeping a journal



# Outdoor composting

- New compost bins
- 2/3 of the area is filled with shredded leaves or wood chips
- Cafeteria scraps added daily
- Organisms (microbes, worms, etc.)
- Moisture is provided by rain and cafeteria scraps
- Air – compost is turned once or twice a month



# Compost Bins at Eastern Middle School





# Inside the compost bin



# Compost needs air and moisture



# Cafeterias

- Educational presentations
- New bins/buckets dedicated to vegetable and fruit scraps
- Food sorting and monitoring
- Posters with what to recycle



## Can I compost this?



The George E. Brown Foundation



Indiana University Health

# Educational program in cafeteria



# Fruit and vegetable scraps



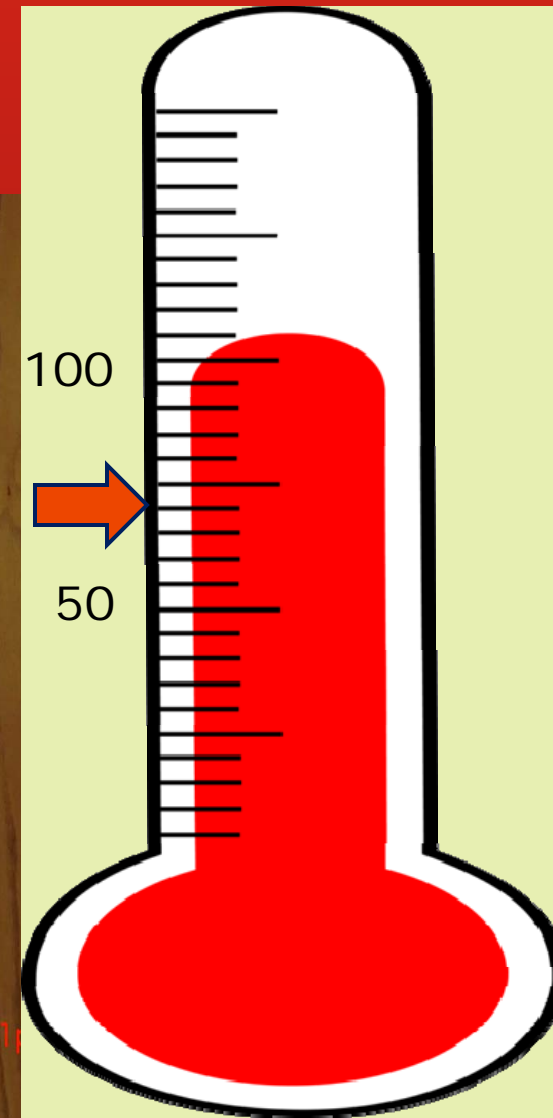
# Waste sorting station



# Sorting and monitoring efforts



# Data collection





# Compost Club

- Monitoring in cafeteria
- Posters for lunch recyclables
- Data collection (daily temperature and weight)
- Events
- Compost Harvest Festival: let's celebrate our success and all the students and volunteers who engaged in this program.



# Become a Cafeteria Ranger



Cafeteria  
Ranger

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Cafeteria  
Ranger

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Cafeteria  
Ranger

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# “From Leaf to Compost”



- Pre-K to 1      Bookmark
- Grade 2-3      Poster
- Grade 4-5      T-shirt

## Conclusions:

- Organic waste disposal is expensive and problematic
- Composting recycles and allows reuse of organic wastes
- Composting is a science and instills in children a sense of environmental stewardship
- Through this program we will grow a new environmentally sensitive generation of property owners in Town

